

REMARKS

The Examiner required Applicant to elect one of the following species of invention:

- Group I Claims 1-8, 32-39, and 63-70 corresponds to Figure 10;
- Group II Claims 9-13, 40-44, and 71-75 corresponds to Figure 11;
- Group III Claims 14-19, 45-50, and 76-81 corresponds to Figure 12;
- Group IV Claims 20-24, 51-55, and 82-86) corresponds to Figure 13; and
- Group V Claims 25-31, 56-62, and 87-93) corresponds to Figure 14.

Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group III in this application without prejudice and without traverse. Claims 14-19, 45-50 and 76-81 are readable on the elected species. Claims 1-13, 20-44, 51-75, and 82-93 have been withdrawn.

Identification of Other Applications

This application relates to:

- (1) USSN 10/610,776 filed June 30, 2003,
- (2) USSN 10/611,259 filed June 30, 2003,
- (3) USSN 10/611,454, filed June 30, 2003,
- (4) USSN 10/610,938 filed June 30, 2003,
- (5) USSN 10/611,455 filed June 30, 2003, and
- (6) USSN 10/742,700 filed December 19, 2003.

USSN 10/611,259 and USSN 10/742,700 have also been allocated to the Examiner. Applicants note that the USSN 10/610,776, USSN 10/611,454, USSN 10/610,938 and USSN 10/611,455 has been allocated to Examiner Bennett Ingvaldstad in Group 4178.

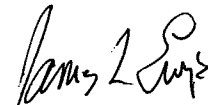
For the Examiner's information, applicants also inform the Examiner that the Assignee of the present application is also owner of the following family of patents and applications:

- (1) USPN 5,818,438 corresponding to USSN 08/428,718 filed April 25, 1995,
- (2) USPN 6,502,242 corresponding to USSN 09/018,767 filed February 5, 1998, which is a divisional of USPN 5,818,438,
- (3) USPN 6,826,775 corresponding to USSN 09/019,534 filed February 5, 1998, which is a divisional of USPN 5,818,438,
- (4) USPN 5,892,508 corresponding to USSN 09/019,531 filed February 5, 1998, which is a divisional of USPN 5,818,438,
- (5) USPN 6,567,982 corresponding to USSN 09/116,325 filed July 15, 1998, which is a continuation of USPN 5,818,438,
- (6) USSN 10/335,835 filed January 2, 2003, which is a divisional of USPN 6,567,982,
- (7) USSN 10/335,735 filed January 2, 2003, which is a divisional of USPN 6,567,982, and
- (8) USSN 11/644,045 filed December 22, 2006, which is a continuation of USSN 10/335,835 filed January 2, 2003 which is in turn a divisional of USPN 6,567,982.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendment. As noted above, four of the related patent applications have been allocated to Examiner Bennett Ingvaldstad. Applicants welcome a discussion with the Examiner, as well as with Examiner Ingvolstad, to coordinate prosecution of these seven patent applications. The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned if there are matters that can be addressed by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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